



Jo and Julian Lambert have two children, Greg aged seven and Pippa, four. The family lives in Watford.

Friendship is as important as education, and that's why Jo chose Kingsway Infant School for her children

Friends on the doorstep

For Jo, her choice of school for her children had more to do with geography than anything else. Wanting them to be able to walk to school and back alongside other local children was something she felt very important. "Obviously it had to be a good school with a good reputation and, thankfully, Kingsway falls into that category," she says, "but to me having a ready-made friendship group on your doorstep is very important. At the beginning and the end of the school day, or when we go out Trick or Treating for example, we'll see loads of people we know and all get together and join in."

Good, better, best

The proximity of Kingsway Infant School has definitely been an asset socially, but Jo has since found more reasons to be glad of their choice. "I thought at first that it was good enough, then I found it was better than I had imagined and after that I knew it was fantastic, and we have never looked back. We have both been really impressed with all aspects of the teaching and the pastoral care and have no complaints at all. The children are taught to their own ability level so if they need extra help they will get it, and if they seem more able they are given more challenging work. We've noticed that Greg is getting a bit more homework and that's a good thing for him - and at the moment he really enjoys doing it!"

Healthy competition

At Kingsway the emphasis is on encouragement and children are rewarded not only for good marks in their work but also for effort and good behaviour. "The Pyramid Chart in the hall encourages the children to do their best; the stickers they earn in class help them move their name up the pyramid during assemblies" Jo explains. "It really makes the children want to try and they respond to the element of competition. Because it's not just about getting top marks in their work but for being kind, trying hard or doing something nice for someone else, every child can achieve recognition for what they have achieved."

Children as individuals

At the introductory Meet Your Teacher evening, Jo and Julian were reassured that should they ever have any concerns the teachers and the Headteacher were always prepared to make the time to listen. They have also been pleased to find how engaged the staff are with all the children. "It's nice to see that everyone seems to know every child by name and that may be a reason why the children are all polite and well-behaved," Jo observes. "From our own perspective, it was nice to realise from Parent's



Evening that Greg's teacher obviously knew him well enough to make allowances for his sensitive personality; it is good to know that all the children are seen as individuals and treated accordingly."

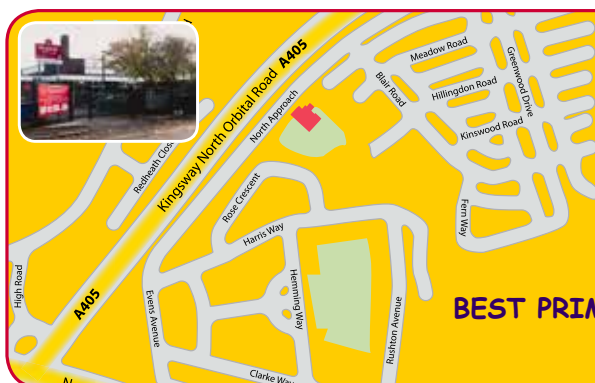
Confidence

Something which Julian has identified as a further plus point is how the children at Kingsway are given the opportunity to make their own personal contribution and encouraged to speak up in front of their peers. "They are offered the chance to voice their opinions in response to a question or to ask their own questions in front of the class. Allowing children to have their say gives them confidence, which is so valuable," believes Jo. "The school even arranged a Verse Speaking competition and that was a lovely idea; Greg was thrilled to get into the final!"

Children say

Pippa will be joining Kingsway Infant School next year but it is currently Greg who knows most about it, so the last word should go to him:

"Kingsway is really fun and I love learning especially literacy. We write stories and if it's really good you can get a Head Teachers Award."



Kingsway Infant School
North Approach, Watford,
Hertfordshire, WD25 0ES
Telephone: 01923 675 005

E-Mail: admin@kingsway.herts.sch.uk
Web: www.kingsway.herts.sch.uk

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